

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2001-886

January 9, 2002

CONSUMERS MAINE WATER COMPANY
Approval of Affiliated Interest Transaction
With Consumers New Jersey Water Company to
Extend Existing Contract for Two Years

ORDER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, and DIAMOND Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

In this Order, we approve an affiliated interest transaction between Consumers Maine Water Company (Consumers Maine) and its affiliate Consumers New Jersey Water Company (Consumers New Jersey), for cash receipt services.

II. BACKGROUND

Consumers New Jersey has provided cash receipt services to Consumers Maine since 1998. When we approved the original contract in 1998, we required Consumers Maine to conduct a price comparison if the contract was to be renewed beyond 2000, consistent with the price comparison requirements contained in our Order in Docket No. 94-352. *Consumers Maine Water Co., Application for Approval of Affiliated Interest Contract*, Docket No. 97-974 (Feb. 25, 1998).

In early 2000, Consumers Maine requested approval to extend the arrangement for an additional two years. We approved the arrangement but directed Consumers Maine to be clear in any future filings about what price comparisons it had conducted and, if it believed that the size of the contract warranted the factors in Docket No. 94-352 to be inapplicable, to so state.

On December 28, 2001, Consumers Maine requested an additional two-year extension to the arrangement at the same 12¢ per receipt charge previously approved. The value of the contract remains at approximately \$5,800. The Company states that its policy is to only go out to bid for expenses expected to exceed \$10,000. However, it did perform an informal analysis and determined that 12¢ per receipt remains a competitive price.

III. DECISION

Given the small size of the contract and based on the fact that the price has remained the same over the past four years, we approve the arrangement.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 9th day of January, 2002

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Nugent
 Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.